

**BOARD OF CERTIFICATION FOR GEOLOGISTS AND SOIL SCIENTISTS  
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: January 23, 2014  
Meeting Location: Androscoggin Room, State of Maine - Gardiner Annex, Northern Avenue, Gardiner, Maine  
Time Meeting Began: 9:00 a.m.

**Roll Call of Officers:**

The following members were present:

Robert Marvinney  
Andrews Tolman  
Irwin Novak  
David Rocque  
Daniel Bernier

The following members were absent:

Ivan Fernandez

Staff Present: Catherine Carroll, Board Administrator  
Michelle Lovering, Board Clerk

AAG Present: Robert Perkins

**OLD BUSINESS**

A motion was made to accept the July 10, 2012 minutes as written.

Motion: Irwin Novak  
Second: Daniel Bernier  
Unanimous

**NEW BUSINESS**

Catherine Carroll presented the case to the board in which Charles Heinonen allowed his certification as a geologist to lapse within 90 days and two years from the last renewal date and submitted an application to reinstate his certification and waive examination. Mr. Heinonen explained his educational and experience background and stated that family health matters caused him to inadvertently renew his license timely. He stated that he does not want to lose his license to practice.

A motion was made to waive the examination requirements. Specifically, requiring passing the examination isn't necessarily going to further demonstrate Mr. Heinonen's adeptness in the profession. Mr. Heinonen claims that allowing his license to lapse was a slip on his part and he addressed it immediately once he realized he did not have a license to practice. During the period that Mr. Heinonen did not have a license he issued only one official professional opinion. Disciplinary action in this case would not serve a purpose.



Motion: David Rocque  
Second: Daniel Bernier  
Unanimous

A motion was made to issue a Letter of Guidance to Mr. Heinonen that explains the importance of keeping his license current and that the 90 day period from when a license expired is not a period in which one can practice. The letter of Guidance stays in Mr. Heinonen's file until April 15, 2015.

Motion: David Rocque  
Second: Daniel Bernier  
Unanimous

## B. Other Business

Robert Marvinney provided an update on a *proposal to eliminate the Board and program* and the Office of Policy Management's hearing before the legislature on "Part F". Members commented that they did not see a cost saving eliminating the board and that it is cost effective to have a board to hear complaints rather than going through law court. The public doesn't understand what we do and that's partly why there are no complaints. Additionally, questionable work in the profession is often addressed in the venue of a regulatory application. Bob asked if the board has allowance in its statute to adjust the board's rules on *waiving examination* requirements. Bob wanted a sense from the board on "*inactive*" status for licensees who are retired or at the ends of career. The board will revisit this possibility upon an analysis of licensing trends and demographics. Bob gave an update on re-appointing and replacing board members. The board suggested sending a message through newsletter or Gov Delivery the importance of keeping licenses current and to not allow them to lapse, and the department's efforts to discontinue paper renewal reminders and licenses. There was discussion on the licensing fees for this board and other boards in the department and the question whether it depends on the licensing pool or other factors. The board asked about a budget for travelling to ASBOG exam development committee seminars.

Catherine Carroll introduced herself and Michelle Lovering and provided an overview of staff duties and responsibilities to this board and six other boards/programs, and the so-called invisible expenses to operate boards and programs that are paid exclusively from licensee fees.

Election of Officers – A motion was made to re-elect Robert Marvinney as Chairman and re-elect David Rocque as Complaint Officer.

Motion: Ivan Novak  
Second: Daniel Bernier  
Andrews Tolman voted in favor.  
Robert Marvinney and David Rocque abstained.  
Motion Carried

## **Adjourned**

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.